

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)

The Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act (ASPA) 1986 and subsequent amendments require the University to have a satisfactory ethical review process in place, as part of the licence that the University, “the establishment” is required to have.

The Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB), is composed of academic and post-doctoral staff, postgraduate students, Named Animal Care and Welfare Officers who work in the University’s animal facility, an external lay representative, named veterinary surgeon, DHSSPS Inspector and the QUB Establishment Licence Holder. The researchers involved in the Committee have personal licences and therefore have undergone the Home Office training required for research involving animals under ASPA.

The role of AWERB is:

- (i) promote awareness of animal welfare.
- (ii) provide a forum for discussion and development of ethical advice to the establishment licence holder on all matters related to animal welfare, care and use at your establishment.
- (iii) consider standards of animal care and accommodation, including breeding stock, and the humane killing of animals.
- (iv) set up and regularly review procedures and protocols, including management systems, for monitoring, reporting and following up on the acquisition, welfare and proper use of animals at your establishment.
- (v) support named people, and other staff dealing with animals, on animal welfare and ethical issues.
- (vi) promote the development and uptake of the 3Rs (replacement, refinement, reduction), and advise staff how to apply them.
- (vii) review all proposals for project licences from a local perspective, consider how the 3Rs are being applied and advise the establishment licence holder on their acceptability, bringing local knowledge and local expertise to bear.
- (viii) throughout the lifetime of projects, follow their development and outcome, including those requiring retrospective review, so that lessons learnt can be used to further apply the 3Rs.
- (ix) advise on re-homing animals including appropriate socialisation.
- (x) respond to enquiries and consider advice received from the national Animals in Science Committee.